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Plague was reported to you in Iquique some three weeks ago by Acting Assistant Surgeon Gruver. I have no further information on the subject.

An epidemic of smallpox is reported in Santiago, Chile.

*Bacteriological examination of rats from steamship Limari.*

CALLAO, May 9, 1904.

Owing at first to a lack of facilities I have not yet obtained confirmation of the provisional diagnosis of plague in the case of the rats on board the steamship *Limari*. Two animals died very promptly, one in five, a second in three days, from subcutaneous and dermic inoculation, respectively, showing typical gross lesions and typical organisms. I now have cultures which are apparently pure, but I have not observed them sufficiently to state positively that this is the case at present. I have little doubt as to the final result.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

*Reports from Manila—Quarantinable diseases—Cholera disappearing from the islands—Disinfection of vessel.*

Chief Quarantine Officer Heiser reports, May 5, as follows:

During the week ended April 23, 1904, the quarantinable diseases reported in Manila were as follows:

	Cases.	Deaths.
Cholera.....	0	0
Smallpox.....	9	3
Plague.....	5	5

CHOLERA.

The continued absence of cholera is a source of great satisfaction to the health authorities of the islands. Only one suspected case was reported during the week, and this occurred at the military prison situated on Malahi Island in Laguna Lake. The history of the case suggested cholera, but, so far as I am aware, there was no bacteriological examination made. From the standpoint of affecting the general sanitary situation, the case is unimportant, because even if it should prove to be a true case of cholera the prison authorities would no doubt prevent any spread of the disease. The board of health feels so sanguine about the disappearance of the disease that they have removed all restrictions upon the sale of food stuffs, which were made with a view of preventing its spread.

SMALLPOX.

This disease is on the increase throughout the islands, and unless general vaccination is carried out it threatens to become a serious factor in the sanitary situation.